The Polynesian:

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Abraham Fornander, . . . Editor.

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a Medical Gentleman at Medras, to his Brother Worcester, May, 1851 : hat their Sauce is highly steemed in India, and is, in my opinion, the most palateable as well as the

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Victoria, Vancouver's Island. N. B .- Particular attention paid to consignments of Sandwich Island Produce. Victoria, V. I., January 1, 1863.

NOTICE To Subscribers to the Fund for the Relief of the Distressed Operatives of Laucashire and neighboring Counties. SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ABOVE FUND ARE REQUESTED to pay the amount of their Subscriptions into Messrs. Bishop & Co.'s Bank. A subscription recommendation of their Subscription into Messrs. to pay the amount of their Subscriptions into Messrs. Bishop & Co.'s Bank. A subscription paper will also be left at same Banking House, and also at Messrs. Janion, Green & Co.'s Office, for those who may wish to contribute. W. W. F. SYNGE, W. L. GREEN, WM. WEBSTER,

VICTORIA, V. L., January 1st, 1863. MR. HENRY RHODES HAVING BEEN ADmitted as a partner in our firm, the style will in future be Janion, Green & Rhodes.

The Polynesian.

[From the London 71mes Dec. 26.]

It is said that the famous Aarchbishop Dunstan suggested to King Edgar the ordinance prohibiting the establishment of more than one alchouse in each village. We do not read that even that med-dling and fanatical prelate went so far as to recommend the total suppression of the traffic in liquor in any place where two-thirds of the inhabitants, in a fit of penitence, might pass such a resolution. The idea of thus interfering with liberty has been reserved for the present century, and is defended on the purest democratic principles. In a memorial presented last Tuesday to the Home Secretary by a deputation of the United Kingdom Alliance "the right of the people to protect themselves from the consequences of the sale of intoxicating liquors" is laid down as an axiomatic truth. This right is to be exercised, not by voluntary abstinence from strong drink, but by making others abstain from it. The licensing power is to be transferred from the hands of the magistrates to those of "the people, for whose conveniences the licenses are granted." In other words, a majority of twothirds in a meeting to be convened in each parish is to have an absolute veto on the existence of any publichouse or beershop within its limits. It was not until he was pressed by Sir G. Grey that one of the members of this deputation conceded that the veto might be annual, rather than final, and in any case the "two-thirds" are to mean two-thirds, not of the inhabitants, but of "those voting." The state of blockade thus to be proclaimed is called "being exempted from the operation of the provisions for licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors," and the power of proclaiming it is claimed as though it were a necessary safequard against the tyranny of the Executive. As it is, " wealthy landowners" may insert restrictive clauses in leases, or stipulate on the sale of land for building pur-poses that no publichouse shall be erected upon it, and the memorialists argue that what a private proprietor may lawfully do incirectly may, a fortiori, be done directly without injustice by a whole neighborhood. They call upon the Government, therefore, to "recognize the earnest desire of the people" by introducing a "comprehensive measure," of which this sweeping provision shall be

the main feature. It is certainly not because these doctrines are new that we have given them this prominence. For years past this well-meaning agitation has been going on, and at every meeting of the Social Science Congress papers have been read advocating the very legislation which would please the United Kingdom Alliance. There has been an attempt in more than one great town to make the "Permissive Bill" a party question, like the Maine Liquor Law in the United States, and it has been openly maintained that it will not do to wait till "the distant day when the passiveness, interest, or ignorance of a great part of the nation collectively shall be overcome." The sin of drunkenness must be put down with a strong and arbitrary hand, and a "higher law" must override the scruples which jarists or statesmen might entertain on the subject. With men of this spirit practical difficulties are as nothing, and we fear Sir George Grey did but waste his breath in showing that "the effect would be to drive people to obtain liquors in a way which would be more objectionable than the present one;" that, as the plan could not be carried out consistently, " the creation of a monopoly and the production of bad and dear beer" must follow from it; and that " the question really is, what is practicable !" Logic is lost upon people who believe that their first assumption is so supremely and eternally true that it will support any conclusion. This is exactly the position of these gentlemen, and they make no secret of it. The speeches at Temperance meetings and most of the Temperance publications are entirely devoted to the proof of the truism that drunkenness is the greatest curse of society. The apostles of total abstinence demonstrate with superfluous cogency, and illustrate with an overwhelming parade of examples, the almost self-evident proposition that drink causes more idleness, crime, disease, want, and misery than all Wheelwright other vices put together. They quote from the charges of criminal Judges, from the writings of philanthropists, and from the confessions of reformed drunkards, to persuade us that it "creates seven-tenths of our pauperism, two-thirds of our lunacy, and one-half of our disease and premature death." Let us grant all these startling assertions, and admit, too, the still more incredible paradox that it "entails a yearly loss of not less than 100,000,000l. sterling upon the inhabitants of the United Kingdom," what then? The natural inference would surely be, that as all these evils, except the last, result from the abuse of a thing which reason and experience show to have its legitimate use, we should do all in our power to check the former and develop a habit of self-restraint which will be satisfied with the latter. There is no lack of disposition to promote both those objects. The law does do something to put a stop to drunkenness, and by placing a large class of licenses under magisterial control provides some security for such houses being well conducted. If a plan were proposed to give greater stringency and consistency to this power of regulation-as, for instance, by limiting the hours of traffic in liquor still further, or making the penalties for infringing the conditions of a licence more certain, or instituting a better surveillance over beershops-the Alliance might count on a favorable consideration of it by every sensible man. But their pretensions go far beyond this. They claim our sympathy for their successful crusades against excessive drinking-in which, by the way, they have had the aid of all the religious and moral agencies in the country-and yet they tell us in the same breath that they are powerless to combat it, unless they are armed with legal authority to make it impossible. They despair of getting laboring men to be moderate in their potations, and so they want to confer on a mixed majority of Teetotallers and contrite "victims of intemperance" the right of cutting Mr. JAMES STEWARD, Hotel Street, and off the temperate minority from access to a glass of

Of course it never occurs to advanced Abolitionists to consider what they are doing when they induce their diciples to put themselves and others into leading strings. If every fermented liquor is pernicious to body and soul, it is worth any risk to debar people from tasting it. But if it be not, as most of us believe, may not the very effort involved in making a proper use of it be a valuable piece of education ! A man who has taken the pledge and keeps it may be superior to an habitual drunkard, but is he equal to the man who needs no such protection against himself? Suppose the same amount of persuasion and influence that would be required to get a vote of this kind carried and renewed for several years to be expended in increasing the attractions of home and rational amusement to the working man, and in fortifying him against temptation-would the result be less valuable? Moreover, in this case no violence would have been done to the rights of others, and the strong would not have been ruthlessly sacrificed to the imaginary interests of the weak. The best proof that the temperance party themselves feel the force of this consideration is the common assertion that drunkenness is scarcely to be called a voluntary habit at all, and must rather be treated as an epidemic to be repressed by exceptional train oil to drink. What more could I possibly demeasures. This is a view which we entirely repu- sire?"

diate, as well as the assumption, which usually goes with it, that the supply of beer determines the demand. Nothing can be more gratuitious than to infer from the fact that the evils of intoxieation " are in proportion to the number and extent of the licensed publichouses, spirit vaults, and beershops," that these are the cause, and the love of drinking the effect. It may well be the other way, and it is quite open to any one to think that the taste of the consumers should be reformed first, and the publican's trade curtailed afterwards. Not that the real objection to interference in this case depends on any such question. That objection was fairly and clearly stated by Sir G. Grey. It is founded on the sound principle that a majority cannot justly be deprived of freedom of action in their private concerns by the will of a minority. No law is higher than the law of individual liberty, and no reasoning is worth much on a moral subject that puts in issue the policy of placing human nature in a state of probation at all.

It has become a habit with Englishmen, especially in the colonies, to take for granted the incapacity of the French people for colonisation. This supposition is entertained by many who freely give credit to that high minded nation for enterprise, skill, and courage. An opinion was expressed by a distinguished member of the Legislative Assembly of the course of bly of this colony, that the Latinised nations of Europe were not only far inferior to the Anglo-Saxon, German, and Scandinavian races as colonists, but almost destitute of colonising ability. And notwithstanding the world-wide memorials of Portuguese and Spanish colonisation in the East and the West, that opinion passes current with many. It is, therefore, but justice to the French nation to take note of the ascertained success of their great experiment in the colonisation of Alge-Though commenced with a display of physical force not in keeping with the humanising ten-dencies of modern international morality, and marked by occasional deeds of the St. Arnauds and Pellissiers, more relentless than the recognised laws of war sanction, the rule of the French in Algeria has been attended by results which must be regarded, in a cosmopolitan light, as highly sat-

As the prejudice with which French colonisation has been viewed, rendered the English somewhat incredulous on the subject of Algerian progress, a good service was lately rendered to the cause of truth by Mr. Caird, M. P., who visited that colony, and afterwards described, before the Royal Agricultural Society of England, what he had seen there. Algeria stretches along 600 miles of the Mediterranean, and is inhabited by 3,000,000 of people, of whom 250,000 are Europeans, the remaining 2,750,000 being composed of Arabs, Moors, and the remnants of those races,-Numidian, Phoenician, and Roman,-who of old possessed that country. The city of Algiers contains 100,000 inhabitants, and is becoming a favorite resort for the Europeans, who seek, in a milder climate than their own, to escape from pulmonary disease. The prosperous town of Mostenegama, overlooking the sea, contains 20,000 inhabitants. There are, according to Mr. Caird, 34,000,000 acres of good cultivable land in Algeria, that is as much as in England, of which 5,000,000 are cultivated, leaving a very wide scope for the extension of agricultural colonisation. 10,000,000 acres are occupied as pasture land, and 12,000,000 acres are overgrown with dwarf palms and underwood. Of the land under cultivation in 1861, they were 2,000,000 acres of barley, or twice as much as in England. Alveria lies between the 34th and 37th degree of north latitude, and is said to be well fitted for the production of cotton. Its canabilities for the culture of olives, wines, oranges, and a large variety of valuable products, have been already tested. One of the most gratifying proofs of the improvement made in the country under French occupation, is that the great plain of Metidijah, which lies near the city of Algiers, and extends fifty-six miles in length, and twelve in breadth, once regarded as "the grave of French soldiers," has, through the energetic efforts made for its drainage and cultivation, become a healty district. The artesian wells which French engineers have sunk in the very desert, causing new cases to grow in spots that have been desolate by ages, and making the wilderness rejoice and blossom as the rose, furnish still more surprising and attractive proofs of the benefits derived from this national

colonial enterprise. It is true Algeria has been far more costly to France in the way of military expenditure, in the drain of men and money, than any British colony has been to our mother country. But then it must be remembered that it has long been the policy of France, and under the present dynasty is more so than ever, to maintain for political and international reasons a large standing army; and the nation may as well sustain that army in Algeria as at home. Among the objects perseveringly pursued by the French Government in Algeria is the acquisition of a large supply of the best Arabian .

horses for the cavalry of France. The recent offer of the Emperor Napoleon to give 10,000 acres of good arable land to a cotton growing company, shows that he is determined to make use of the present crisis to forward the interests of that colony. And since the commercial advantages flowing from free access to all the shores of the Mediterranean are added to all the internal resources of Algeria, it is evident that the French occupy there a position of great importance; of which both the ruler and the people have the sagacity and perseverance to avail themselves .- N. Z. Daily Southern Cross, Sept. 18.

FEMALE SOCIETY AT THE WHITE HOUSE .- Wash-

ngton correspondence of the Boston Journal says: The inner circles of what may be called the Presidential society have always been the subject of much comment and gossip among what may be termed the outer circles. Thus, Mrs. Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams, wrote as follows of Mrs. Washington: "She endears herself to all. Not by what she is so much as by what she is not, and makes up by cordiality the short-comings of an early education." In turn, Mrs. Adams was commented upon as follows, in one of the private letters of the day : "She is prim, cold, and possesses too much mind for the very little heart that hardly seems to beat under her taffeta gown." By the aristocracy of Virginia, Mrs. Madison was called the Quaker widow, and gentlemen were " too fond of her society" in the common parlance of the day. The manners of Mrs. Monroe were "too much of the French schoo.," and it was asserted that the niece of Gen. Jackson (who presided over his honsehold) " had no manners at all " Mrs. Harrison left the White House before her manners were developed-and while the first wife of John Tyler was "too old." the second was "too young." Mrs. Polk "wore shawls and turban" as well as paste jewelry; Mrs. Taylor "did not receive;" Mrs. Fillmore was "deaf;" Mrs. Pierce, sad and afflicted, "never laid off her mourning;" and Miss Lane was " spoiled by being told that she resembled Queen

Victoria." The captain of a whale ship, in allusion to the severity of the climate and various privations suffered by the inhabitants of Spitzbergen, told one of them that he sincerely pitied the miserable life to which he was condemned. "Miserable!" ex-claimed the philosophic savage, "I have always had a fish-bone through my nose, and plenty of